



## Development news

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Welcome to a new issue of Development News published by Forest & Landscape Denmark (FLD), Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen.

We report on our projects, education programmes and publications. Among the various subjects in this issue I would like to point out the following projects:

Urban forestry and urban greening in developing countries: Urban forests and other green areas can provide an important supplement of food, fodder and wood to urban dwellers.

Vegetation and climate change in Eastern Africa: A high resolution digital vegetation map for land use planning, natural resource management and conservation of biodiversity in Eastern Africa.

ComForM II, which focuses on building research and pedagogical capacities at especially the Institute of Forestry - the only institution in Nepal offering forestry education at technical, BSc, MSc and PhD levels, as FLD is doing.

Yours sincerely  
Dr. Niels Elers Koch, Director General



## Urban Forestry consultation to FAO

In 2008, for the first time in human history, the number of people living in urban areas exceeded the rural population. Urban areas in developing countries will account for nearly 90 percent of the projected world population increase of 2.700 million people between 1995 and 2030. In 2025 more than 50% of the African and Asian populations will be living in urban areas. In developing countries, where 80% of the world's population reside, central issues will be how to cope with an unprecedented increase in the number of people living in urban areas and with the growing concentration of these urbanites in large cities with millions of residents

and declining availability of natural resources.

The importance of urban forestry and urban greening, so far, has received limited attention in many poor cities and towns as it is often perceived as being associated with beautification projects, which are considered a luxury benefiting only the wealthier part of the population. However, in developing countries, urban forests and other green areas can provide an important supplement of food, fodder and wood to urban dwellers. The functions of green areas in and near cities in moderating harsh urban climates, preventing desertification, and in treating wastewater have also been under investigation. As more knowledge on these aspects is required, urban forestry



research and capacity needs to be further extended in the developing world.

Recognised as an international centre of excellence on urban forestry and urban greening, Forest & Landscape for almost ten years has assisted FAO in improving livelihoods and environment for healthy cities. The assistance includes preparation of a FAO strategy for Urban and Peri-urban Forestry, a Forestry Outlook Study for West and Central Asia and various workshops, e.g. in conjunction with the World Forestry Congress.

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## PROJECT NEWS

### Case study Hangzhou in Peri-urban Land Use Relationships - Strategies and Sustainability Assessment Tools for Urban-Rural Linkages (PLUREL):

The PLUREL project on peri-urban land use change (EC, FP6 036921) include a case study of Hangzhou, China for reference and comparison with European experiences. The main issue for the case study is how to manage land use change in peri-urban areas in a context of extremely rapid and large scale urban development.

The study focuses on three study areas in Hangzhou to highlight different approaches to respond to the challenges to sustainability. The Binjiang area where a new urban district is planned as a largely self-contained urban district in terms of functions and facilities. Xixi wetlands where residential development is combined with nature restoration, and recreation for the dense urban areas now surrounding the wetland park. Finally the Zhuantang area which represent an attempt to combine urban development on a small scale with tourism, farming and landscape protection.

The case study is developed in cooperation between University of Copenhagen, The Technical University of Munich, MUDI, Chinese Academy of Forestry, and University of Zhejiang. For



more information of the PLUREL project, please visit [www.plurel.net](http://www.plurel.net)

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### Managing the Urban Rural Interface Strategies and Tools for Urban Development and Sustainable Peri-urban Land Use Relationships

#### International conference

19 – 22 October, 2010

Faculty of Life Sciences

University of Copenhagen

Information and programme: [www.plurel.net/conference](http://www.plurel.net/conference)

### Exploring Social Consequences of Global Environmental Governance - A case study of REDD+ initiative and its implementation in Nepal

This postdoctoral research aims at improving our understanding of social consequences of global environmental governance for local people in developing countries. Drawing on a case study of REDD+ initiative and its implementation practices in Nepal, the project investigates how a global environmental initiative affects local people who are dependent on the environmental resources, and why.

The project first analyzes how global REDD+ discourses conceptualize social issues. Second, it examines how the discourses are translated into Nepal's national policy frameworks and whether and how the frameworks incorporate local needs. Finally, the project looks at how the new policies and local power relations shape the abilities of various local actors to benefit from REDD+, drawing on a case of one REDD+ pilot project.

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### Vegetation and climate change in Eastern Africa: A high resolution digital vegetation map for land use planning, natural resource management and conservation of biodiversity in Eastern Africa (VECEA) 2008-2011

The project VECEA is implemented under a Rockefeller Grant Agreement by Forest and Landscape Denmark and the World Agroforestry Centre together with African botanists in seven countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Malawi, and Zambia).

The fundamental project idea is to utilise old botanical maps that describe the potential natural vegetation of the countries, i.e. a mapping of the vegetation as it would have been distributed in the absence of human influence. VECEA has now finished revising the old vegetation maps and has converted them into a high resolution model including a database with descriptions of the nomenclature and criteria used to define the potential vegetation types, and including key (vegetation and environmental niche) characteristics that define and distinguish the vegetation types. In addition a new vegetation map of Ethiopia has been published by Ib Friis (Botanical Museum, University of Copenhagen) together with Sebsebe Demissew (Addis Ababa University) and Paulo van Breugel (World Agroforestry Centre). *See box below.*

Five MSc. students are now completing their field work on vegetation in Kenya and Uganda.

During 2010 VECEA will produce a series of scientific articles on various aspects of the map and species database including analysis of landuse changes and the impact of climate change. We also plan to publish the individual country maps as part of Forest and Landscape Denmark's publication series.

All vegetation maps are included in a geo-database. For easy distribution on CD-ROM or online, we are planning to make the data layers available in geo-tiff (rasters) or shapefiles (vector maps) formats, linked in a mapping project in the freely available Quantum GIS. Quantum GIS is open source and can be distributed as a portable application together with the data, thus allowing easy access to the data even for people without GIS software.

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**Friis, I., Demissew, S., van Breugel, P. (2010).**

Atlas of the Potential Vegetation of Ethiopia. 307 pp. Biologiske Skrifter 58,. The Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters, H.C. Andersens Boulevard 35, DK-1553. E-mail: [pub@royalacademy.dk](mailto:pub@royalacademy.dk) ISBN 978-87-7304-347-9.

The book describes the structure and floristic composition of the vegetation types recognised, and the descriptions are illustrated with selected photographs from many parts of Ethiopia. Part of the book is an atlas with 29 map plates and a legend to signatures. This atlas shows the potential distribution of the 15 natural vegetation types. The book also describes the relation between the new classification of vegetation types and two previous classifications, also with vegetation maps showing distribution of vegetation, by respectively R.E.G. Pichi Sermolli (1957) and Frank White (1983).

## Conservation of Mbeliling Forest on Flores, Indonesia



Forest & Landscape, University of Copenhagen, supports the implementation of the project Conservation of Mbeliling Forest on Flores, Indonesia. As part of this support Forest & Landscape and Birdlife Indonesia implemented a one-week training course on Training of Trainers (ToT) combined with 'Introduction to Rehabilitation and Establishment of Farm Forest'. There were 18 participants from farmers groups in the project area, a local NGO and the District Forest Office. They had class room lessons, own practice (ToT) with video recording and field exercises. They learned how to prepare and how to give presentations for an audience, and they learned about species selection, nursery operation, benefits from tree planting and income generation to the local community. Most of the training material (15 booklets) was in Bahasa Indonesia, and a part of the material was reprints of material developed by Indonesia Forest Seed Project (1998-2004). Most of the training material can be used in the participants daily work in the project area.

The evaluation, done by the participants, gave top marks to the training course, and rated the course 'as the best ever held in West Flores'.

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## Forest - People Interactions ComForM II project

The ComForM II (Community Forest and Tree management in the Himalaya phase II) project is a collaboration among (i) the Institute of Forestry, Nepal, (ii) the Department of Forest Research and Survey, Nepal, and (iii) Forest and Landscape Denmark. Starting in 2003 the project has focused on building research and pedagogical capacities at especially the Institute of Forestry - the only institution in Nepal offering forestry education at technical, BSc, MSc and PhD levels. ComForM research has contributed towards improved livelihoods through sustainable and equitable management of forest resources in Nepal. Key output is a panel data set comprising socio-economic and biophysical data from Community Forest User Groups and Community Forests in 3 physiographic regions of Nepal. Total income data from 533 randomly selected households provide detailed information about household level cash and subsistence forest income and forest inventory data from 241 randomly located plots in 3 physiographic regions provide information on community forest growth. Measurements were undertaken in 2005/6 and 2009/10. The conference features presentations of project findings as well as other selected research from the Himalayas.

The ComForM II project is financed by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. End of project conference: ENRECA project ComForM II (Community Forest and Tree management in the Himalaya phase II). June 7. & 8., Pokhara.

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## News From Education Programmes

### REFOLANA. Ph.D. Research school of forest, landscape and planning - University of Copenhagen.

Many of our Ph.D. students are writing their thesis on developing issues.

You can always find an updated list of our Ph.D students and their projects at:

[http://en.sl.life.ku.dk/Forskning/ForskerskolenREFOLANA/PhD\\_students.aspx](http://en.sl.life.ku.dk/Forskning/ForskerskolenREFOLANA/PhD_students.aspx)

Note: All publications published by FLD, e.g. Development and Environment, Seed Leaflets, Working Papers and most 'Other Publications' can be downloaded free of charge from our homepage, where you can also read more about distribution of hard copies.

<http://en.sl.life.ku.dk> > Forskning > DevelopmentEnvironment > Publications.aspx

### Ten PhD scholarships available FONASO – Forest and Nature for Society

Forest and Nature for Society (FONASO) is a three-year world-class global Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorate programme. The main objective of the programme is to educate the leaders of the future generation of researchers, teachers and top management staff working with sustainable forest and nature management, in both tropical and temperate regions, to ensure wider societal benefits.

Within forest and nature management, the programme is focused on the scientific fields of (i) economics and policy, and (ii) ecology and silviculture. Emphasis is on applied research.

FONASO is offered by a global consortium that includes globally top ranked universities and leading international research organisations.

Applications must be received no later than 1 October 2010. More information and application form can be found on:

[www.fonaso.eu](http://www.fonaso.eu)

## New publications

- **Rapport de mise en place d'un essai international de provenance de *Adansonia digitata* L (Baobab) à l'ICISAT-Sadoré, Niger.** / Rabiou, A., Toujani, A., Allasan, M., Sadi, S. Maman, Nikiema, A., Jensen, J. Svejgaard, Ræbild, A. Hørsholm. Denmark. 2010. p. 1-9 (*Working Paper Forest & Landscape*; 48).
- **Rapport de mise en place d'un verger à graine à Baobab (*Adansonia digitata* L.) à la station expérimentale de N' Dounga, Niger.** / Rabiou, A. Toujani, A., Jensen, J. Svejgaard, Ræbild, A., Allasan, M. Hørsholm. Denmark. 2010. p. 1-15 (*Working Paper Forest & Landscape*; 49).
- **Conservation of Prey Long Forest Complex, Cambodia: Conservation, Environmental Services and Sustainable Use.** / Schmidt, L. Theilade, I. Hørsholm, Denmark. 2010. p. 1-25 (*Working Papers Forest & Landscape*; 50).
- **Manual: Tree Nursery Establishment for Small Holder Farmers.** / Harum, F. Moestrup, S. Hørsholm. Denmark: Forest & Landscape. University of Copenhagen. [Download](#)
- **Road-Map for National Forest Programme.** / Sloth, A. (Ed). [www.twgfe.org](http://www.twgfe.org) : National Forest Programme Website, 2010. 11 p.
- **Bulletin de Safruit no 3. 2010.** / Ræbild, A (Ed.): Bulletin de Safruit. no. 3, June. 2010. [www.safruit.org](http://www.safruit.org) 8 p.

